

**SCHAUMBURG, IL** — Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-8), who joined her Illinois colleagues in a concerted effort to obtain federal funding for Metra service, spoke at the dedication for the North Central Service (NCS) expansion today. She joined Metra Chairman Jeffrey Ladd as well as a number of other elected officials and community leaders at the dedication ceremony.

The expansion improved North Central Metra Service by repairing and upgrading the track and signals, adding five stations and 2,300 new parking spaces, and increasing the number of commuter trains from ten to twenty. The expanded service will better accommodate the needs of riders, especially commuters, and allow for better service to O'Hare International Airport.

Bean worked with the Illinois delegation to obtain funding for improvements to construction on the North Central Service that will be funded in major part through the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. The legislation also includes additional funding that Bean and others in the Illinois delegation requested to help enhance Metra's suburban passenger service, including initial development of the STAR line, linking a number of northwest suburban communities.

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